



CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

R E P O R T of the M E D I C A L O F F I C E R  
of H E A L T H

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

T.G. RICHARDS,  
M.B.,Ch.B.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of CLITHEROE

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the  
Year ended 31st December, 1943

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Council.

Gentlemen,

STATISTICS.

The District comprises thirteen Parishes, totalling 32,170 acres. The area is largely agricultural, and full employment in this and the other smaller industries of the district obtains now.

Births: Fifty-three births have been recorded in the local register, but this does not include such inward and outward registrations as will appear in the Registrar General's returns, and cannot, therefore, properly be used to calculate birth rate.

Deaths: Deaths occurring and registered in the District for the year number 62, and I have received notice of 18 transferable deaths, making 80 in all. An analysis of returns makes it possible to classify deaths as under:-

Cause of death	Number of deaths registered
Influenza	3
Cerebro-Spinal fever	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2
Cancer, bucc. cav. and occupational (M) uterus (F)	3
-do- breast	1
-do- all other sites	8
Diabetes	2
Heart disease	19
Other circulatory diseases	2
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	3
Other digestive diseases	3
Nephritis, acute	-
-do- chronic	2
Premature birth	1
Birth injury, etc.	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	13
Suicide	1
Road traffic accidents	2
Other violent causes	1
All other causes	8
Total	<u>80</u>

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health: T.G. Richards, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
Sanitary Inspector : W.H. Jackson. L.R.C.P.

Other Officers:

The Tuberculosis, V.D., and Child Welfare Services, Veterinary Surgeons, School Nurse and Health Visitors are controlled and staffed by the Lancashire County Council.

The Midwives Service is the District Nursing Association of Queen's Nurses.

### HOSPITALS.

The arrangements for General Medical and Surgical cases, as well as Infectious Diseases, are the same as in previous reports.

Tuberculosis: The Sanatoria are those provided by the Lancashire County Council.

Maternity Homes: There is no maternity home in the District, cases being admitted, when necessary, to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, or the Preston Royal Infirmary.

Child Welfare: Centres, under the auspices of the County Council, have been established in Whalley, Chipping and Chatburn.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES in the AREA.

Water Supplies: These are as in previous reports. There have been no extensions during the year.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal: These are all conducted as in my last report, and are, subject to my previous remarks regarding the necessity for a sewage scheme in those areas, satisfactory.

Scavenging, Refuse Removal and Disposal:

Scavenging, with the exception of the areas of Hurst Green, Wiswell and Chatburn, which are dealt with by contract, is done by direct labour, and is satisfactory.

### HOUSING.

Regular inspections of house property have been made, and as reported in previous years, we find the common defects to be dampness, insufficient ventilation, and sometimes sewage difficulties. Where possible, steps have been taken to insure the removal of these defects. When the present emergency ends, it will be necessary to undertake a more energetic policy towards housing than is possible at present, - for many of the deficiencies are fundamental in the construction of many of the older properties in this District.

### INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds:

Regular inspections of farms and cowsheds have been carried out, and the minor difficulties dealt with.

There are two holders of licences to produce tuberculin tested milk, and holders of "Accredited" licences.

The examinations of milk are made by the Pathologist at the Wigan Royal Infirmary.

The Pasteurising plant at Chaigley, following a defect in the holding tank, has been changed from the High Temperature Short Time process to the older method of pasteurisation, pending repair of the newer one. Samples taken have all been satisfactory since.

Meat and Slaughterhouses:

There is one slaughterhouse at Stonyhurst College. Notices have been received of slaughter of pigs at farms, and in most cases inspection of the meat was made, and in no case so inspected was it unsatisfactory.

## PREVALENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of notifications received during the year 1943 was 67, distributed quarterly thus:-

January - March	41
April - June	12
July - September	6
October - December	8
Total	<u>67</u>

Particularised they fell as follows:-

Infectious disease	No. of notifications received
Measles	40
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever	12
Whooping cough	7
"Pneumonia"	5
Erysipelas	1
Cerebro-Spinal fever	1
Total	<u>67</u>

The high notification rate for measles was the result of an epidemic of this illness in the District, which, commencing in early February, finished in mid-March.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of new cases notified during the year was 10, compared with 7 in 1942. Of these 10, 8 were pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary conditions. Three cases were removed from the Register in the year.

On 31st December, 1943, the Register stands thus:-

<u>PULMONARY</u>			<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>			<u>TOTAL</u> <u>PULMONARY &amp; NON-PULMONARY</u>		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
8	6	14	6	4	10	14	10	24

It is noted that, of the new notifications received, 8 came in respect of cases in or about Whalley. Six of these cases were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. This is not a feature of notification in previous years, as the Register shows, and is not to be explained, in my view, on grounds of housing or occupation.

## SCHOOLS.

These have been inspected during the year, and found to be clean.  
The closet and privy accommodation is the same as in 1942.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The present position in the immunisation of children against diphtheria is probably the most satisfactory of all work in the District. By the end of 1942 almost all the school children in the Council's Area had been immunised, and a high percentage of the children under five.

This year we have found less than 15 children at school who (a) had not been immunised or (b) whose parents refused consent.

In the case of children under five, it was found that the majority were children who had reached their first year since the last series of sessions, or who had missed the last session for unavoidable reasons.

In no case, so far as I am aware, has immunisation been followed by untoward results, and on only three occasions has there been any notable local reaction.

I am glad to be able to report a position which gives reason for satisfaction.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T.G. RICHARDS,  
Medical Officer of Health.